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## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

a storage unit which stores therein a document database consisting of a plurality of documents based on a hierarchical structure and a management information database consisting of information indicating a relation between a document in an upper layer and a document in a lower layer and a plurality of management information including information on a version number of each document;

a server connected to said storage unit and provided with the manager of the documents; and

a client connected via a network to said server and retrieves, by accessing said server, a document in the upper layer and a document in the lower layer each having a specified version number from the document database according to the management information.

2. The integrated document management system according to Claim 1, wherein the management information includes a collection of a plurality of documents on the same layer and information indicating each version number of the plurality of documents, and said client retrieves a plurality of documents on the same layer in a specified version number from the document database according to the management information by accessing said server.

- 3. The integrated document management system according to Claim 1, wherein said server registers, when a document registered in the document database is updated, the updated document in the document database, and also updates the version number information in the management information concerning the document.
- 4. The integrated document management system according to Claim 3, wherein said client sends retrieval information for a retrieved document via the network to said server, and said server sends, when a document corresponding to the retrieval information is updated, updating information concerning the updated document via the network to said client.
- 15 5. The integrated document management system according to Claim 1, wherein the management information includes information concerning a security level corresponding to each of the plurality of documents and said server permits or inhibits retrieval of the document in correspondence to the security level.
  - A document retrieval device used in an integrated document management system having
- a storage unit which stores therein a document database consisting of a plurality of documents based on a hierarchical

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structure and a management information database consisting of information indicating a relation between a document in an upper layer and a document in a lower layer and a plurality of management information including information on a version number of each document; and

a server connected to said storage unit and provided with the manager of the documents, wherein

said document retrieval device retrieves a document in the upper layer and a document in the lower layer in a specified version number from the document database according to the management information by accessing said server via the network.

- 7. The document retrieving device according to Claim 6; wherein the management information includes a collection of a plurality of documents on the same layer and information indicating a version number of each of the plurality of documents, and a plurality of documents on the same layer in a specified version number are retrieved from the document database according to the management information.
  - 8. The document retrieval device according to Claim 6, wherein the management information includes information concerning a security level corresponding to each of the plurality of documents, and the documents are retrieved from

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the document database according to a permission of retrieval corresponding to the security level.

A computer-readable recording medium with a document retrieval program recorded therein, the document retrieval program used in an integrated document management system having,

a storage unit which stores therein a document database consisting of a plurality of documents based on a hierarchical structure and a management information database consisting of information indicating a relation between a document in an upper layer and a document in a lower layer and a plurality of management information including information on a version number of each document; and

a server connected to the storage unit and provided with the manager of the documents, wherein

the document retrieval program used for making a computer access said server via a network to retrieve a document in the upper layer and a document in the lower layer in a specified version number from the document database according to the management information.

10. The computer-readable recording medium with a document retrieval program recorded therein according to Claim 9; wherein the management information includes a collection of a

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plurality of documents on the same layer and information indicating a version number of each of the plurality of documents, and in the step described above, a plurality of documents on the same layer in a specified version number are retrieved from the document database according to the management information by accessing said server.

11. The computer readable recording medium with a document retrieval program recorded therein according to Claim 9, wherein the management information includes information concerning a security level corresponding to each of the plurality of documents, and in the step described above, the documents are retrieved from the document database according to a permission of retrieval corresponding to the security level.